

truck mounted Platforms

win battle for red diesel

Vehicle-mounted platforms (VMPs) in the UK will not be banned from using Red Diesel following representations to the Treasury by IPAF. Information released in the budget reveals that plans to exclude VMPs from the list of vehicles with "Excepted" status have been dropped.

"We are delighted that the Treasury has responded to the high level of concern voiced by our members following the initial proposal," said Tim Whiteman, IPAF managing director. Documents prepared by IPAF had emphasised the fact that VMPs make incidental use of the highways and had highlighted the potential safety hazard of making this form of work at height more expensive than other alternatives.

Under the changes released by The Treasury in March, there will be amendments to the Excepted Vehicle Schedule relating to Hydrocarbon Oils which will come into effect on 1 April 2007. These will see mobile cranes, truck mounted access platforms and mobile pump concrete pumps with a revenue weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes continue to be allowed to use Red Diesel.

The final detail of the measures is subject to the drafting of a Treasury Order and a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment for which IPAF has committed to provide additional information. Until that time, the current regulations are unchanged and a summary can be found in the news section of www.ipaf.org

"We welcome the constructive discussions that we and our colleagues at the CPA (Construction Plant-Hire Association) were able to hold with representatives of HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) who have clearly indicated their willingness to listen to the industry by amending the initial proposals," said Whiteman.

More info: ipaf.org



HSE-IPAF training vouchers extended

IPAF vouchers that give course participants a £10 discount at participating IPAF-approved training centres are now valid until 31 December 2006.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is distributing the vouchers, under a safety promotion programme targeted at small and medium-sized construction firms.

The promotion was first started in September last year and is being extended because of its success in reaching out to SMEs and specific trades such as decorators, electricians, plumbers and building maintenance workers. In courses that combine both theory and practice, trainees are given instruction on how to select the right equipment and how to work at height safely.

Participating IPAF-approved training centres are listed at www.ipaf.org/hse.htm

First aid to the rescue

Proper first aid training can make all the difference, as an incident at an IPAF approved training centre recently showed. The instructor, Barry Brady of Elevation Ltd., was about to complete the theory session in a VMP 26 course. One of the trainees seated in a chair gestured to him, but leaned back, resting his head on the wall. Brady initially thought that he was fooling around, but realised that his eyes had rolled back in his head and his arms were rigid. He was also making a gargling noise, as his airway was being obstructed by his tongue.

Things happened quickly and Brady took charge as per the Appointed Persons' First Aid (APFA*) course. He and the other trainees brought the person to the floor, supporting his head, and laid him out. His chest was not moving and his heart was not beating. Brady put the person in the recovery position to clear his airway and he slowly started to open his eyes and to breathe over a period of one to two minutes. Hot and perspiring, he seemed to have another relapse and was moved to ground level again.

Meanwhile, an ambulance arrived and the paramedics immediately applied oxygen. The person was taken to hospital and released after a number of tests.

The paramedics assured Brady that his prompt action could have prevented a more serious outcome.

*The APFA course aims to provide participants with sufficient knowledge to deal with an accident until a qualified first aider or the emergency services arrive. Contact IPAF for the list of training centres offering the first aid course.



Facelift hits 10,000

Hickstead-based Facelift Access Hire has trained its 10,000th person under the IPAF platform operator course. Colin Wood, managing director of the CPA, passed the theory and practical tests with flying colours and is now the proud holder of a PAL Card (Powered Access Licence).

Safety and service standards to be IPAF's focus at SED

IPAF will be highlighting the need for platform operator training at the SED construction event from 16 to 18 May 2006 at the Rockingham Performance Park in Northants. IPAF will be in the Cranes & Access Village, Avenue E, Stand Number 800. IPAF members and PAL Card holders are warmly invited to stop by.

High service standards in the access industry will also be promoted through the IPAF Rental+ quality mark. Rental companies that

carry the IPAF Rental+ sign have passed an independent audit to meet defined standards in customer service, safety, staff training, contract terms and machine inspection. Audits are carried out every year to ensure that these companies continue to distinguish themselves as reliable suppliers of access equipment.

PDS date

Instructors! Book the 14 September 2006 in your diaries for this year's Professional

Development Seminar (PDS), to be held at the Hilton Manchester Airport. IPAF International Training Manager, Rupert Douglas-Jones, and IPAF Scheme Auditor, Giles Councill, will be on hand to discuss the latest developments in training. A full programme will be released nearer the date.

Did you know?

Details on IPAF meetings and events can be found at www.ipaf.org/events.htm



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